

Learning English with CBC Edmonton

Weekly newscast

May 2nd, 2014

Lessons prepared by Amie Sondheim & Justine Light

Objectives of the weekly newscast lesson

- to develop listening skills at the CLB 4 level
- to increase vocabulary among learners
- to increase knowledge of news stories
- to provide a self-study tool, as well as, an ESL classroom resource



www.alberta.ca

<http://www.cbc.ca/edmonton/learning-english/>

News story #1 The Measles are Back!

Did you get a measles vaccination were you were a child? This story talks about a measles outbreak in Alberta.

Vocabulary

Before you listen to the first news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Use one of the vocabulary words below to complete the sentences. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. measles	A serious illness that you can catch. It gives you a fever and red spots on your face and body.
2. immunization	To take a vaccine in order to not get certain illnesses.
3. clinic	A place where people who don't need to go into the hospital can go to see nurses or doctors.
4. official (adjective)	Done or said by someone in charge.
5. official (noun)	Someone who is in charge, or one of the bosses, in an organization.
6. outbreak	When a disease begins suddenly and spreads quickly.
7. microbiologist	A scientist who studies small life forms, such as diseases.
8. virus	A very small thing that is alive and causes illnesses like the measles.
9. confirmed	To show that something is true.

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

popping up- happening or occurring unexpectedly

1. If you want to get checked out by the doctor, go to the _____.
2. It's been _____, there is a measles outbreak.
3. If you have a fever and red spots on your body, you could have _____.
4. Children should get _____, to be protected from the measles.
5. The health _____ are sure that the measles outbreak is a problem.
6. The tiny little thing that makes people sick is called a _____.
7. The _____ records show that over 100,000 people have not been immunized in Alberta for the measles.
8. If there are many cases of an illness occurring, officials call it an _____.
9. The _____ will have to look closely at the virus cells in order to understand them.

Now listen to the first news story from the audio file.

Listening activity: Multiple Choice

Choose the best answer to the following questions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. What is happening in Calgary this week?	a) immunization clinics are opening up b) Glen Armstrong is coming
2. Who is all dealing with the official outbreak?	a) Just Calgary b) Calgary and other parts of Alberta
3. Why is this considered to be an outbreak?	a) because cases keep popping up b) because 100,000 Albertan's are not immunized
4. How many cases of measles are confirmed?	a) twenty two b) one hundred thousand
5. What is expected to increase?	a) immunization rates b) confirmed measles cases

Activity

Re-tell the news story: Can you re-tell the story you have just heard in your own words. Try it out with your partner.

News story #2 Flood Projects

Have you ever seen or been in a flood? This next story is about solutions to help Calgary prevent floods in the future.

Before you listen to the second news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary: Choose the group of synonyms (words with similar meaning) that best match each of the vocabulary words. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
	1) flood	a) proclaimed said aloud
	2) protect	b) to keep to put away
	3) announced	c) overflow too much water
	4) to store	d) release water empty
	5) storage	e) a chamber for holding liquid the place lots of water is kept
	6) drain	f) defend save
	7) reservoir	g) a space for storing where things are kept

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

flood mitigation panel – a group of people who is discussing solutions to Calgary's flood

dry dam – a wall to block the water when it rises during a flood, but does nothing when water is low

diversion tunnel – a tunnel that will lead water in a certain direction.

Now listen to the second news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: True/False

Decide whether the statements below are **true (T)** or **false (F)**. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. ____ The province announced a list of solutions to the flood problem.
2. ____ The purpose of the projects for the river are to protect the city from floods.
3. ____ McClean Creek is one place they want to store flood water.
4. ____ The storage projects are going to cost \$119 million each.
5. ____ The diversion tunnel will drain water away from the Glenmore Reservoir.
6. ____ Those who live near McLean Creek and Springbank Road will be protected.

Discussion Question: Were you affected by the floods in Southern Alberta last year? Do you know of anyone who was?

News story #3 Farewell Peter Maher

Do you watch hockey? This last story is about the retirement of Peter Maher from the Calgary Flames.

Before you listen to the third news story, complete this vocabulary activity. It will help you to understand the listening more easily.

Vocabulary

Match the words with their definitions. *Answers are in the appendix.*

Answer	Words or phrases	Definition
	1. longtime	a) to stop working
	2. retirement	b) a fun expression used to say "yes!"
	3. catchphrase	c) over many days, weeks, months or years
	4. yeah, baby!	d) recognized by many
	5. well known	e) something that is said that gets people's attention

Extra definitions to help you understand the reading:

You can put it in the win column! – Imagine that there were two columns, one would say lose, the other would say win. Anything that is considered winning, positive, or good, would go in the 'win column'.

Calgary Flames – Calgary's hockey team

Atlanta – a city in the southern USA.

Now listen to the third news story from the audio file.

Listening Activity: Infer meaning from the listening passage

Read and answer the questions below. *Answers are in the appendix.*

1. Why do you think Maher is retiring?
2. What is Maher well-known for?
3. Does Maher sound like he would be an exciting or boring man? Why?
4. Do you think people will miss his voice?
5. How do you think Maher feels about retiring?

Discussion Question

Why are sports announcers so important in sports? What do they do for the listener? How would sports games be different if there was not an announcer giving the audience the play-by-play?

Language Focus: Capitalization of Proper Nouns

When to capitalize nouns can be a tricky thing to figure out. The first thing you need to decide is if the word is a common noun or a proper noun. Proper nouns name something very specific; a one-of-a-kind person, place, thing or idea and they need to be capitalized.

In the script this week, there are many examples of proper nouns. See the example from story # 1

Identify the proper nouns	What are the proper nouns referring to?
Measles immunization clinics opened in Calgary this week. That's after health officials confirmed Calgary and other parts of the province are dealing with an official outbreak.	Calgary – a specific place (city) in Alberta
University of Calgary microbiologist Glen Armstrong understands why the measles virus is now an outbreak. Cases keep popping up, and Armstrong says between 100,000 and 150, 000 Albertans are not immunized.	University of Calgary – a specific school Glen Armstrong - a specific man Albertans – the people of Alberta

Try it! Find the proper nouns that should be capitalized and say what they're referring to.

Identify the proper nouns	What are the proper nouns referring to?
...the province's list of projects for the elbow river should protect the city. The province announced it will look at a dry dam near mcLean creek to store flood water... and a storage site near the river by springbank road. wolf keller says both projects,...	
...keller says a combination of any two of the three mitigation projects will protect calgary's elbow river communities...	
The longtime voice of the calgary flames has announced his retirement. peter maher was the radio voice of the flames since they moved to alberta from atlanta in 1980.	

Transcripts of Weekly news stories

	MAY 2 ND WEEKLY NEWS STORIES	TIME
Introduction	Hi, I'm Rosa Marchitelli . You're listening to Learning English with CBC for May 2 nd .	0:00
Story 1	Measles immunization clinics opened in Calgary this week. That's after health officials confirmed Calgary and other parts of the province are dealing with an official outbreak. University of Calgary microbiologist Glen Armstrong understands why the measles virus is now an outbreak. Cases keep popping up, and Armstrong says between 100,000 and 150,000 Albertans are not immunized. So far, health officials say there have been 22 confirmed cases of measles... a number officials expect will climb.	0:07
Story 2	The head of Calgary's flood mitigation panel says the province's list of projects for the Elbow River should protect the city. The province announced it will look at a dry dam near McLean Creek to store flood water... and a storage site near the river by Springbank Road. Wolf Keller says both projects, estimated to cost 190 million dollars each, will take some time to design and build. The city will release a report in June on a possible diversion tunnel to help water drain from the Glenmore Reservoir into the Bow River. Keller says a combination of any two of the three mitigation projects will protect Calgary's Elbow River communities from future flooding.	0:50
Story 3	The longtime voice of the Calgary Flames has announced his retirement. Peter Maher was the radio voice of the Flames since they moved to Alberta from Atlanta in 1980. Maher is well known in Calgary for his catchphrases "Yeah, baby!" and "You can put it in the win column!"	1:52

Answer keys

News story 1

Vocabulary

1. If you want to get checked out by the doctor, go to the **clinic**.
2. It's been **confirmed** there is a measles outbreak.
3. If you have a fever and red spots on your body, you could have **measles**.
4. Children should get **immunized**, to be protected from the measles.
5. The health **officials** are sure that the measles outbreak is a problem.
6. The tiny little thing that makes people sick is called a **virus**.
7. The **official** records show that between over 100,000 people have not been immunized in Alberta for the measles.
8. If there are many cases of an illness occurring, officials call it an **outbreak**.
9. The **microbiologist** will have to look closely at the virus cells in order to understand them.

Listening

1.What is happening in Calgary this week?	a) immunization clinics are opening up b) Glen Armstrong is coming
2. Who is all dealing with the official outbreak?	a) Just Calgary b) Calgary and other parts of Alberta
3. Why is this considered to be an outbreak?	a) because cases keep popping up b) because 100,000 Albertan's are not immunized.
4. How many cases of measles are confirmed?	a) twenty two b) one hundred thousand
5. What is expected to increase?	a) immunization rates b) confirmed measles cases

News story 2

Vocabulary

Answer	Word from the story	Related words
c	1) flood	a) proclaimed said aloud
f	2) protect	b) to keep to put away

a	3) announced	c) overflow too much water
b	4) to store	d) release water to become empty
g	5) storage	e) a chamber for holding liquid the place lots of water is kept
d	6) drain	f) defend save
e	7) reservoir	g) a space for storing where things are kept

Listening

1. T The province announced a list of solutions to the flood problem.
2. T The purpose of the projects for the river are to protect the city from floods.
3. F McClean Creek is one place they want to store flood water.
4. F The storage projects are going to cost \$119 million each.
5. T The diversion tunnel will drain water away from the Glenmore Reservoir.
6. F Those who live near McLean Creek and Springbank Road will be protected.

News story 3

Vocabulary

Answer	Words or phrases	Definition
c	1. longtime	a) to stop working
a	2. retirement	b) an fun expression used to say "yes!"
e	3. catchphrase	c) over many days, weeks, months or years
b	4. Yeah, baby!	d) Recognized by manyd
d	5. Well known	e) Something that is said that gets people's attention

Listening: inferring meaning

1. **Why do you think Maher is retiring?** Because he's been working for at least 35 years, so maybe he's getting older and it's time to retire.

2. **Why is Maher well-known for?** His catchphrases
3. **Does Maher sound like he would be an exciting or boring man?** Exciting because he uses fun expressions and being a sports announcer would be a job that a person has to show excitement in.
4. **Do you think people will miss his voice?** Probably, since he's been announcing for the same sports team, to the same audience, for 34 years.
5. **How do you think Maher feels about retiring?** Probably a little sad, cause he's been doing it so long, but also happy, so he can relax now.

Language focus: Proper Nouns

Identify the proper nouns	What are the proper nouns referring to?
...the province's list of projects for the Elbow River should protect the city. The province announced it will look at a dry dam near McLean Creek to store flood water... and a storage site near the river by Springbank Road . Wolf Keller says both projects,... ... Keller says a combination of any two of the three mitigation projects will protect Calgary's Elbow River communities...	Elbow river – a river that runs through Calgary McLean Creek – a specific creek in Alberta Springbank Road – a road in Alberta Wolf Keller – a specific man
The longtime voice of the Calgary Flames has announced his retirement. Peter Maher was the radio voice of the Flames since they moved to Alberta from Atlanta in 1980.	Calgary Flames and the Flames – Calgary's hockey team Peter Maher – the announcer Alberta – province in Canada Atlanta – city in USA